

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 361

By Hood

A RESOLUTION To honor the memory of Mr. James Edgar
Edwards of Murfreesboro.

WHEREAS, The members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Mr. James Edgar "Droopy" Edwards; and

WHEREAS, James Edwards was born in 1918 in Perry County, the son of the late William Thomas and Augusta L. Edwards; the family lived in Hickman County and in Dickson County, where James attended Old Dickson High School and received the nickname "Droopy"; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Edwards graduated from Cumberland University in Lebanon, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Serving in both the Marines and the Army, James "Droopy" Edwards served his nation in combat with valor during World War II and the Korean War; he was a member of the Tennessee National Guard following his release from active duty, retiring as a Colonel at age 60; and

WHEREAS, A lifelong friend of former Governor Frank Clement, Mr. Edwards was appointed by Governor Clement to serve as Warden of the Tennessee State Penitentiary in 1953; he accepted the position saying that he would focus his efforts on rehabilitating prisoners and getting jobs for them after their release; and

WHEREAS, He was highly regarded by the prison inmates with whom he would occasionally play baseball; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Edwards resigned as Warden in 1956 to take a position with the Ford Motor Company Glass Plant in Nashville, where he stayed until his retirement in 1980; he served as Sergeant-at-Arms for the Tennessee House of Representatives in the late 1980s and early 1990s, and as Chief Sergeant-at-Arms in the later years; and

WHEREAS, James Edwards was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Edwards served with acumen and alacrity in all his chosen endeavors, unfailingly earning the respect of his peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, James Edwards was an active and devout member of the First United Methodist Church of Murfreesboro; he also belonged to American Legion Post No. 141 and the Murfreesboro Kiwanis Club; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Edwards was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; he enjoyed the loving companionship of his late wife, Evelyn Jennings Edwards, and was the proud parent of James J. and Joyce; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Edwards leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of James Edgar "Droopy" Edwards, reflecting

fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of James Edgar Edwards.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.